

COUNCIL
19 DECEMBER 2016

REPORT OF	Councillor George Davies
CABINET PORTFOLIO	Housing and Community Safety
CO-ORDINATING CHIEF OFFICER	Mark Smith, Strategic Lead - Environment

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report is an update from the Cabinet Portfolio Holder to Members of the Council on matters relating to his portfolio.

1. ZERO TOLERANCE TOWARDS DOMESTIC ABUSE

Domestic abuse is a significant public health issue which affects one in three women and one in six men. Domestic abuse is a complex issue and as such a large number of partner agencies are involved in commissioning a wide range of services to tackle it. As the Cabinet Member with responsibility for leading on the 2020 pledge I am pleased to report on the progress that has taken place so far in tackling this complex issue.

To date we have been working with a range of 3rd sector and voluntary organisations such as Tomorrow's Women Wirral, Involve North West and Wirral Connect who are delivering a number of high impact community based projects such as a Domestic Abuse peer mentoring scheme which provides more support to victims of domestic violence and has trained over 30 Peer mentors this year. Many of these Peer Mentors will become Community Based Domestic Abuse Champions. These Community Champions will provide a level of support and advice to domestic abuse victims and survivors which are currently not readily available on Wirral.

Wirral's Community Safety Partnership commissioned the Merseyside Community Rehabilitation Company to run 4 extra schemes designed to change behaviours and reduce repeat incidents from within the highest risk group of domestic abuse perpetrators in Wirral. This is one of many future schemes where the pooling of budgets with the Police, National Probation Service and the Council to create one integrated service providing more joined up support works.

Finally I would like to highlight and thank Tranmere Rovers in their backing of Wirral's zero tolerance pledge. The Club have dedicated three matches to raise awareness of Domestic Abuse by taking part in a National Women's Aid campaign, 'Football United Against Domestic Abuse'. The invited 20 people as representatives of those who are making a difference to tackle domestic abuse to the match on the 26th November. The Club Chairman gave a presentation and Emma Palios, Club Ambassador for Domestic Abuse at Tranmere Rovers said, "We are proud to be supporting this campaign to send a clear message that any type of domestic abuse

must not be tolerated, it is never acceptable and we must do everything possible to prevent all forms of domestic abuse. As a club we are asking our fans and the wider community to join with us and raise awareness of this important issue.”

2. ENSURING WIRRAL’S NEIGHBOURHOODS ARE SAFE

Wirral continues to press ahead with innovative plans to integrate the resources of all agencies involved in making Wirral Safe. Initially this will see the Community Patrol Service and the Councils Anti-Social Behaviour teams come under the operational control of the Police. This move across to police operational control will allow for greater integration and will see Police Community Support Officers travelling in vehicles with the Councils Community Patrol Service. It will result in even greater multi-agency working for tackling anti-social behaviour and other community initiatives.

In addition to the integrated project work described above, I am pleased to report that the multi-agency operations around mischief night and bonfire night – called Operation Bangor – had a great success and levels of reported crime and ASB reported to the police were less than last year. We are aware that two areas – New Brighton and Birkenhead were exceptions to this general reduction elsewhere and these two areas actually experienced an increase in ASB around mischief night. A range of interventions, including public meetings were put in place and this resulted in little or no issues reported on bonfire night. Members should be aware that community safety partners will continue to review and scrutinise all these acts of criminality and ASB and continually modify our approach to prevention and intervention ready for next year.